

of Idea Village. I would like to recognize the entire team at Idea Village and look forward to their continued leadership and success in supporting New Orleans entrepreneurs and our economy.●

#### RECOGNIZING KREWE DU OPTIC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, whether it is our food, architecture, or drawl, New Orleans is undoubtedly home to one of the more unique cultures across America. However, while we are not necessarily known for our contributions to the fashion industry, one young entrepreneur is changing that with his popular Crescent City-inspired eyewear line Krewe du Optic. I would like to recognize Stirling Barrett's Krewe du Optic as Small Business of the Week. Barrett's artistic designs have earned him not only tremendous success in the last 3 years, but they have also caught the attention of the national fashion industry, helping to develop New Orleans' role and reputation in national and international fashion.

New Orleans native Stirling Barrett is an artist, designer, and entrepreneur who launched Krewe du Optic in 2013. The unique eyewear line combined Barrett's love of art, fashion, and the Crescent City and has been embraced by the fashion industry across the United States and around the world. Two years after his initial investment into the New Orleans-inspired eyewear concept, Barrett cemented his commitment to the industry and his hometown by opening a flagship brick and mortar store on the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's historic landfall. Despite the geographical challenges of running a designer line from New Orleans, Barrett has been quoted as saying, "Krewe is about doing something from somewhere no one expected." This philosophy rings true since New Orleans, which certainly serves as a hub for entrepreneurship, has not been historically associated with the fashion industry. Earlier this year, Krewe expanded its operation by opening a second store in Savannah, GA.

Most recently, the growth of the Krewe brand has reached historic proportions, becoming the first New Orleans-based top-10 finalist for the prestigious Council of Fashion Designers of America/Vogue Fashion Fund. Krewe received the runner-up award for technological creation of sunglasses that double as a camera and are able to capture memories in a natural way.

For their unique creativity and commitment to community, Stirling Barrett and the entire team at Krewe du Optic have made New Orleans proud. Congratulations for being named Small Business of the Week, and I wish you continued growth and success.●

#### RECOGNIZING RUSTON ANIMAL CLINIC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, during the month of November, our Nation

comes together to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifices of our veterans. The week of October 31 through November 4, 2016, is officially National Veterans Small Business Week. When our brave men and women in uniform return to civilian life, some turn to entrepreneurship. In fact, there are more than 2,500,000 veteran-owned small businesses, employing nearly 6,000,000 individuals, in the United States. This week, I would like to recognize the veteran-owned Ruston Animal Clinic as Small Business of the Week.

The Ruston Animal Clinic first opened its doors in 1970 to provide preventative medicine, dental care, orthopedic surgery, bathing, and boarding for animals in north Louisiana and over the decades has become an integral part of the local community.

Following a 4-year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps, Marion Sewell moved to Louisiana to earn an undergraduate degree from Louisiana Tech University and a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Louisiana State University's School of Veterinary Medicine. In 2007, Dr. Sewell moved to Ruston, began working at the Ruston Animal Clinic, and 2 years later took ownership of the small business. In the dual role of small business owner and veterinarian, Dr. Sewell has taken a leadership role in the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association and currently serves as president-elect.

Worthy of recognition is Dr. Sewell's work during the deadly, historic August flooding disaster in south Louisiana. In the wake of one of the Nation's worst natural disasters over the last decade, Dr. Sewell traveled across the State to lend her time and talents to assist in animal evacuation and rescue efforts.

Today Ruston Animal Clinic has established a strong social media presence in order to update north Louisiana pet owners and animal lovers with pet adoption notices, missing animal alerts, and helpful information on proper pet care.

Congratulations to Dr. Sewell and the entire team at Ruston Animal Clinic for being selected as Small Business of the Week. I look forward to your continued success.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

SOCIAL SECURITY TOTALIZATION AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL, TITLED "AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL," AND A RELATED AGREEMENT TITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY"—PM 58

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith a social security totalization agreement with Brazil, titled "Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil," and a related agreement titled "Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security" (collectively the "Agreements"). The Agreements were signed in Washington, D.C., on June 30, 2015.

The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the Agreements' estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.